

MEMORANDUM

November 5, 1984

TO: Senator Dole
FR: Judy

RE: Kick-Off Reception for the Fifth Decade Fund, Department
of Rehabilitation Medicine, Kansas University

In September, you accepted the invitation to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the Fifth Decade Fund, Department of Rehabilitation, Kansas University. On Friday, November 9, the Campaign Committee will be hosting a kick-off reception between 5-6 P.M.. They will let us know the location later this week. Attendance will be limited to committee members (approximately 35 persons) and arrangements are being made for a press conference for you and John Pat McCarthy, who is chairing the committee. John Pat served as your alternate at the Republican convention in Dallas. The Campaign Committee is composed of both disabled Kansans and staff of the Department of Rehabilitative Medicine.

The University of Kansas houses a highly respected Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Established in 1946, the Department has increased its services and made significant improvements in teaching, research and patient care. Of the three non-Veterans Administration intensive rehabilitation facilities in Kansas, it is the only one offering combined service, teaching, and research opportunities.

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine specializes in the management of severe physical disabilities such as spinal cord injuries, head injuries, strokes, severe arthritis and amputation. Specialized treatment also is offered for muscular diseases, burns, chronic neck and back and musculoskeletal pain, and chronic painful disabilities of all types.

Fifteen hospital beds are provided for the care of seriously injured inpatients who need rehabilitation therapy. Any patient who has potential for rehabilitation is transferred as soon as possible to the Rehabilitation Unit and then spends from one to six months in extensive rehabilitation. The goal for each patient is to ensure the maximum function possible within the limits of the persons new disability so he or she can return to the community.

The Fifth Decade Fund is a campaign to raise \$300,000 which will be used for remodeling and the purchase of new equipment. The fund raising plan directs itself predominantly to local foundations.

TALKING POINTS

- I am pleased to serve as Honorary Chairman of the Fifth Decade Fund, Department of Rehabilitation, Kansas University. The business of assuring the necessary financial resources to all for expansion and improvement in teaching, research and patient care within the field of rehabilitative medicine is an important one. I commend members of the Campaign Committee on their efforts to raise private sector funds to support this worthy agenda.

- The time has come for us to reexamine our priorities. For many years enormous amounts of attention and health care dollars have been spent on finding cures to the ills that plague Americans.

These priorities have resulted in some spectacular advances. Polio has ceased to be a constant fear of parents, a diagnosis of cancer no longer means an automatic death sentence.

However, along with these advances we have also seen new chronic conditions appear which will bring with them new challenges for the future.

Obviously, finding the cure to an illness is still a high priority, but along with this priority should be a desire and a responsibility to improve our ability to rehabilitate those who are disabled because of accidents or diseases.

- The onset of a physical disability often results in unnecessary personal and societal costs because rehabilitation is not provided or because significant delays occur in obtaining services.

Medical rehabilitation is an approach based on the recognition that all aspects of a person's life are affected when a physical impairment occurs. The approach considers the whole person and is carried out by many different practitioners working together as a team.

- As one who has personally experienced a rehabilitation program, I cannot underline enough the value of this holistic approach. The life of a handicapped individual is not broken down into sections of the body. All of the body's needs must be met each day-- and helping a person to learn to cope with these needs is an integral part of the process. Those involved in the continued growth and improvement of the Department of Rehabilitation of the University of Kansas Medical Center is of crucial importance to our disabled citizens and our nation. Through the rehabilitation process, we have the opportunity of changing the economics of dependence into the economics of independence.